

Claim Amendments

1. (Cancelled) A dental chew comprising:

a body of animal hide, said body being infused with a flavor ingredient and a dental aid, said dental aid being selected to provide at least one of calculus reduction, plaque reduction, tooth whitening or gum recovery as a pet chews the body.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~dental-chew~~ method of claim 45 wherein said dental aid is selected from the group consisting of dextranase, protease and amylase.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~dental-chew~~ method of claim 45 wherein said dental aid is selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine, triclosan, xylitol, fluoride and neem.

4. (Cancelled) A pet chew comprising:

an animal hide piece having a predetermined shape and size; and
a coating disposed on said animal hide piece, said coating including a flavor and a dental aid selected from the group consisting of dental aids for providing at least one of calculus reduction, plaque reduction, tooth whitening and gum recovery as a pet chews the piece.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of making a dental chew comprising the steps of: providing a clean hide;

infusing the clean hide with ~~an ingredient including~~ a flavor ingredient and a dental aid selected from the group consisting of dental aids for providing at least one of calculus reduction, plaque reduction, tooth whitening and gum recovery as a pet chews the piece;

cutting the hide to make hide pieces; and

drying the hide pieces to make dental chews.

6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the dental aid is selected from the group consisting of enzyme mixtures and chelating agents.

7. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the dental aid is selected from the group consisting of bactericides and bleaches.

8. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the dental aid is selected from the group consisting of vitamin L, lorezyme and periostat.

9. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said providing step comprises: treating said hide with a chemical agent and washing said hide to remove meat and other undesirable materials.

10. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said infusing step comprises immersing the hide in a bath containing said flavor ingredient and said dental aid.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said bath also contains a colorant.

12. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said bath is agitated for accelerating infusion.